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CLAIMS

1. A method (30) for controlling a television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function with an associated setup process (31), said setup process (31) comprising:

receiving an input representing a geographical area (43); and providing a predetermined output when a distance between a reference point and a predetermined point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance (44, 45, 46).

- 2. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said geographical area is represented by a FIPS location code.
- 3. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said reference point is a point associated with another geographical area.
 - 4. The method (30) of claim 3, wherein said reference point is a center point of said other geographical area.
 - 5. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said reference point corresponds to a location of a transmitter which transmits emergency alert signals.
- 6. The method (30) of claim 5, wherein said predetermined distance corresponds to a transmission range of said transmitter.
 - 7. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said predetermined point associated with said geographical area is a center point of said geographical area.
 - 8. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

a memory (27) operative to store data associated with said emergency alert function; and

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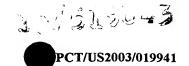
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- a processor (27) operative to receive an input representing a geographical area, and to enable a predetermined output responsive to said input using said data in said memory (27) when a distance between a reference point and a point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance.
- 9. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said geographical area is represented by a FIPS location code.
- 10. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said reference point is a point associated with another geographical area.
 - 11. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 10, wherein said reference point is a center point of said other geographical area.
 - 12. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said reference point corresponds to a location of a transmitter which transmits emergency alert signals.
- 13. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 12, wherein said predetermined distance corresponds to a transmission range of said transmitter.
 - 14. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said predetermined point associated with said geographical area is a center point of said geographical area.
 - 15. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:
 - memory means (27) for storing data associated with said emergency alert function; and
 - processing means (27) for receiving an input representing a geographical area, and enabling a predetermined output responsive to said input using said data in said memory means (27) when a distance between a reference

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point and a point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance.

- 16. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said geographical area is represented by a FIPS location code.
 - 17. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said reference point is a point associated with another geographical area.
- 18. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein said reference point is a center point of said other geographical area.
 - 19. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said reference point corresponds to a location of a transmitter which transmits emergency alert signals.
 - 20. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 19, wherein said predetermined distance corresponds to a transmission range of said transmitter.
- 21. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said predetermined point associated with said geographical area is a center point of said geographical area.